Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI, after a consultation process with the stakeholders including Cellular Operators Association of India, Bharti and Vodafone, has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

(c) Given the central aim of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) to ensure rapid expansion of teledensity, Government, in the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular and for the proper conduct of telegraphs and telecommunications services, has issued these licences for access services, which has resulted in reduction in telecom tariff and unprecedented growth of telecom services due to competition.

Special incentive package for semiconductor manufacturing

2477. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given in principle approval to the special incentive package prepared by the Department of Information Technology for semiconductor manufacturing and other high-tech industries;

(b) if so, whether the parameters of this package have been announced;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) whether making bandwidth available to every Indian has to remain a priority, as it holds the key to bridging the digital divide; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Special Incentive Package Scheme to encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government *vide* Gazette Notification No. 78, Part I, Section I dated 21st March, 2007. A copy of the Notification is available on the *website http://www.mit.gov.in.*

(d) and (e) The Government has been able to provide state of art world-class telecom infrastructure at globally competitive tariffs and to reduce digital divide by extending connectivity to the unconnected areas.

Target set by DoP

2478. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra circle of the department of Posts has projected a turnover of Rs. 550 crore during the year 2007-08 fiscal from its various business propositions across Maharashtra and Goa;

(b) whether the Department has earned a revenue of Rs. 400 crore during the year 2006-07 fiscal and has targeted an increase in the revenue by more than 25 per cent;

(c) whether in order to achieve a target of Rs. 550 crore, the Department has set product-wise and month-wise goals and designed strategies to meet these targets; and

(d) whether the Department propose to extend the service to all other branches in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Maharashtra Postal Circle has projected a revenue target of Rs. 550 crores from business products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post, Business Post, Bill Mail Service etc. for the year 2007-08 against its achievement of Rs. 416.66 crores revenue from these products during 2006-07. The circle has also worked out a Business Plan for the year 2007-08. These products and services are provided in various post offices in the State. These services are extended as needed taking into account market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc.

Complaints pending under Nalanda Telephone Exchange

2479. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone connections at Gajraj Bigha under Nalanda Exchange had not been working at a stretch even for 15 days for the last one year;

(b) whether Government are also aware that despite repeated complaints and reminders, no concrete steps have been initiated by the local officials to attend to the problems;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to ensure that the telephone connections work uninterrupted so that the consumers are not forced to switch over to other service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, telephone connections at Gajraj Bigha village under Nalanda Telephone exchange had been generally working satisfactorily. However during last six months, these telephones have been affected due to frequent cable thefts and damage to cables by road widening agency which are being restored time and again.

(b) and (c) Immediate action is taken by BSNL on receipt of the complaints and all out efforts are made to restore the services within shortest possible time except in cases of cable thefts and damages to cables due to road widening activities.

(d) To prevent damage to cables due to road widening activities the matter was taken up with the concerned State Government authorities who have issued